

I am writing in opposition to SB 2307, and I urge you to vote NO. This bill would needlessly put strain on our public libraries. All libraries have established policies and procedures to group materials into age-specific collections.

This bill, if passed, would unfairly force libraries to comb through thousands of existing materials, as well as thousands of new materials each year, to ensure they don't fall under the vague and potentially broad definition of "obscene materials". I'm first concerned with how library workers would be expected to achieve that task, and where that funding might come from.

I'm also concerned as a North Dakota resident with the authority this bill grants the state to decide what materials should and shouldn't be available to its residents.

Shouldn't it be parents' jobs to decide what their child can and can't check out from the library, not the state?

Visit your local library and you will see that books and other materials are on shelves, separated by age and genre, but otherwise open to roam, just like Barnes and Noble or Target does with their books and materials.

However, this bill, if passed, would force libraries to blockade off huge parts of the library, even though any family could take their kids to a department store and browse books or countless other products that this bill would define as "obscene."

To me, the only conclusion is that this bill is entirely unnecessary and seeks to hamper libraries in their mission to provide equitable access and encourage a love of reading.